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STATE DOCUMENTS

# FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE,

## SUPERINTENDENT

OF

# STATE ORPHANS' HOME

OF THE

## STATE OF MONTANA

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30

1908

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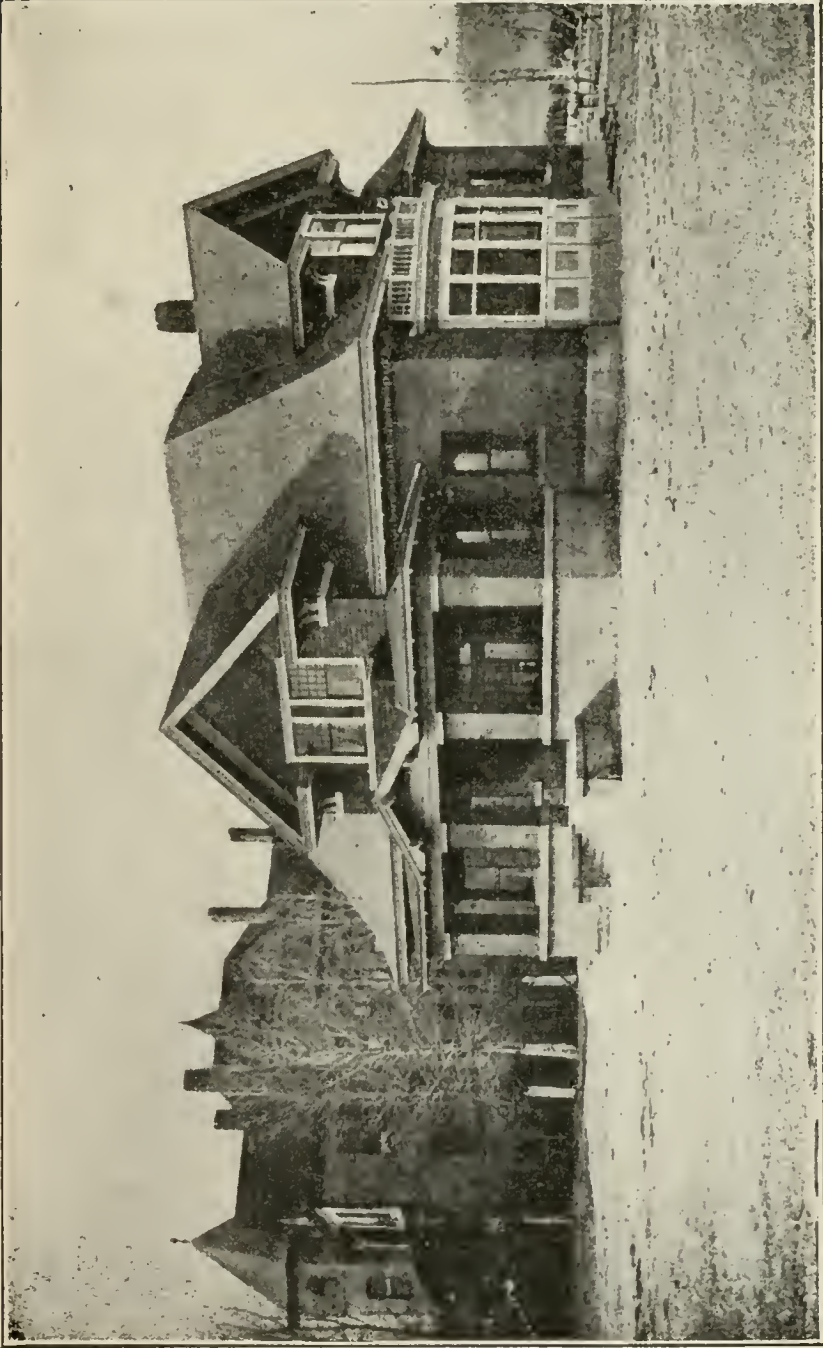
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TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA

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ORPHANS' HOME AND COTTAGE.



GENERAL VIEW OF ORPHANS' HOME

# FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA



TRIBUNE PUB. CO., DILLON, MONT.  
1908.

# THE STATE ORPHAN'S HOME

TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA,

OPENED SEPTEMBER 26th, 1894

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WILEY MOUNTJOY, .....Superintendent.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

PATRICK CARNEY, President,.....Waterloo, Mont.

AMOS EASTMAN, Secretary,.....Twin Bridges, Mont.

A. J. WILCOMB, Treasurer,.....Twin Bridges, Mont.

W. M. OLIVER, .....Dillon, Mont.

M. ELSER, .....Sheridan, Mont.



# Report of the Superintendent of the State Orphans' Home for the Year Ending Nov. 30, 1908.

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:—

Gentlemen:—I am pleased to submit for your consideration and through you, to the Governor and the people of Montana, such facts concerning the work of this institution as appear to me to be of general interest.

Before entering into the details of the work, for the year, a few historic facts concerning the inception of this work would not be out of place.

The Institution had its origin in a message of Gov. J. E. Rickards to the legislative assembly of 1892 advising its establishment.

Acting upon this advice the legislature passed a bill locating the Home at Twin Bridges, provided for the appointment of a Board of Trustees and appropriated \$7,500.00 for the erection of a building.

The first Board of Trustees consisted of Patrick Carney, John R. Comfort, R. O. Hickman, J. M. Page and John Wilhart. The building was partly completed in the spring of 1894. Rev. Geo. Comfort and wife were chosen as superintendent and matron and took possession at that time, but the institution was not formally opened until September 26 of the same year.

Michigan seems to have been the pioneer among the States in this work. Their institution was established, if I am not mistaken, in 1874. It was called the "State Public School." I understand that Gov. Rickards was formerly a citizen of Michigan and his knowledge of the beneficent work of that state led him to recommend the establishment of a similar institution in Montana.

Not only is the "State Public School" the pride of the people of Michigan, but it has challenged the admiration and approval of some of the countries of Europe. One of the Deputies said before the Institute of France: "The State of Michigan, which has only existed about forty years has the merit of preceeding ancient Europe in the inauguration of a new era for dependent children." Ex-Gov. Bagley said: "The most beneficent and grandest work the state has ever done is the State Public School at Coldwater."

Our institution is the same in purpose, very similar in method, though differing in name. It takes the destitute and homeless children of the state, under sixteen years of age, and gives them a home, schooling, care and protection until family homes can be provided for them, relatives take them or until they can support themselves.

An institution like this seems to me to be a logical outgrowth or necessary complement of our public school system. This system seeks to give every child a common school education and an opportunity for a high school training and at public expense.

It has assumed a compulsory form in this and other states. If a child should be found to be homeless and destitute, the public, to be consistent, must provide for its care and education. It is easy to see that the state can do this better and at less expense than the county or city.

This is not a charitable institution in the ordinary acceptation of that word. If it is, then our public schools, normal schools and state universities are charitable institutions. It is supported in exactly the same way, and as I see it, justified upon exactly the same grounds. In fact upon stronger grounds than taxation for the higher institutions of learning.

Thousands of children are educated in our public schools, normal schools and universities whose parents pay little or no taxes. If these children are objects of charity, so are they.

### THE NAME.

This institution is popularly known as the "State Orphans' Home." I suppose the full legal name is the State Home for the care of Orphans, Foundlings and Destitute Children." This is too unwieldy a name for daily use, so it was naturally contracted to "Orphans' Home." This in itself is misleading. The manifest purpose was to found a Home and School for the destitute and dependent children of Montana who were not otherwise provided for.

It was not intended to admit orphans unless there were reasons other than orphanage, nor to exclude other destitute children simply because they were so unfortunate as to have parents living. The Trustees have so construed the law and have made destitution and dependence the sole price of admission. As a matter of fact full orphans make up a very small per cent of the inmates. Most of them are half-orphans. We find, from experience, that those who have homes to offer children prefer full orphans for fear of parental interference. I know of no condition more deplorable for a child than to be encumbered with a lot of worthless parents.

The name to similar institutions in Michigan, Minnesota and other states, is "The State Public School." One other word would make the name more adequately descriptive, "The State Home and Public School," for it is no less a home than a school.

### ITS SCOPE.

The Home should aim to do more for the children than to furnish board, clothes and a place to sleep. It should endeavor to educate and train to habits of industry and whatever is best calculated to lead to honorable, useful, citizenship. In a word, to restore them, as far as possible, that of which they had been deprived by misfortune and adversity.

The work is at least three fold:—

First—To provide for physical needs.

Second—To restore to relatives, where this is possible and consistent with the best interests of the child. Failing in this, to place them in good homes.

Third—To give such education and training as will fit them for self-support and good, useful citizenship.

We believe that the Trustees, and all immediately responsible for the conduct of the Home, have tried to realize these ideals as far as it was possible to do with the means available and under prevailing conditions. It is, perhaps, natural for one to think the work in which he is engaged the most important. This may sometimes lead one to magnify his own and belittle another's work; but laying aside whatever personal interest, or pride I may have in this matter, I think it may be truthfully asserted that Montana has undertaken no greater, or at least, no nobler work than to give homes, nurture, education and opportunity to her unfortunate, destitute children. Its responsibilities are tremendous and its results incalculable, but farreaching. It is comparatively easy to give facts and figures concerning the work and results of things which can be estimated, measured and weighed; but the anxieties and fears, the joys and pleasures, the disappointments and failures in caring for hundreds of children cannot be told in figures or set forth in tables.

### PLAN, MANAGEMENT, ETC.

The institution now consists of the main building, four cottages, school building, power plant and laundry (combined), barn, etc. We have practically adopted the cottage plan, which is the most approved, up-to-date, effi-



cient plan for institution work. The main, or administration building, has the offices, public rooms, dining rooms, kitchen and most of the employes' rooms, store room, etc. We also keep all the larger girls in this building. One cottage is the nursery, specially designed and built for that purpose. This will accommodate about twenty-five babies. This is in charge of two nurses with what assistance may be necessary. Another cottage has a family of about twenty-five children (of both sexes) ranging in age from 2 to 5 years. Each of the other cottages has a family of boys in charge of a matron. Each child lives, plays and sleeps at his own cottage. All come to the main building for their meals, except the small children. They mingle on the general play ground and at school much as other children. Our aim is to make the institution as much like a family home as possible. We require order, promptness, regularity and obedience. We secure these by kindness, reason and persuasion if possible. Where punishment seems necessary we aim to adapt it to the nature of the offense. Corporal punishment is the dernier resort. We grant as much freedom as seems consistent with order and a wise discretion. It is far better that a child make mistakes and do wrong sometimes than to be so hampered and watched that it would be impossible to do wrong at any time.

To keep a child busy, either at work or play, is to solve the question of discipline. A busy man, as a rule, has no time or inclination to make trouble with his neighbor. Idleness is the source of much trouble among men. It is also the occasion of mischief and wrong doing among children. We aim to keep our children busy. Not at hard tasks. Their time is well divided between work, study and play. Every child over five years of age has some task.

There is a popular notion that these children would be difficult to manage. I have not found them so. Poverty and misfortune have no necessary association with vice. The children sent here are not supposed to be either criminal or incorrigible. All are children of misfortune, many show evidence of neglect, others have known homes of some refinement and bear evidences of good training. A few, while not criminal themselves, are the victims of crime. Some show criminal tendencies. I would not say that this is hereditary. Perhaps it is only human.

### THE SCHOOL.

We have a good school building and fine assembly room adjoining. This last has just been completed and to which allusion is made elsewhere.

We employ three teachers, use the same text books and aim to pursue the same course as the grade public schools. Most of our children come from and go back to the public schools. In fact, I think, we may properly say that this school is a part of our public school system. I think an institution like this is involved in any compulsory system of education, or in any beneficent scheme which seeks to reach and help the most needy and unfortunate children.

### PRESENT CONDITIONS, ETC.

So far as I am able to judge the health of and other material conditions were never better than now. The general health has been uninterruptedly good throughout the year. There has been no contagious or infectious disease except the mumps. We had many cases of this, and it seemed hard to eradicate, but it has passed and seemed to be attended with no serious results. While there was practically no sickness among the older children, we lost six babies during the year. These ranged in age from four weeks to four months and all, except one, died with bowel trouble during the hot weather. They were all brought to the Home after the heated term began. All had some bowel trouble when brought. The travel, change of food on road and sometimes change from mother's breast to the bottle are especially severe for

delicate babies. It seems to me that it would be wise not to receive young babies in July and August when it can be avoided.

One little girl fell, broke and dislocated her wrist. This was the only causality of any consequence during the year.

It is a matter for congratulation that, though the state has increased considerably in population and owing to the transient and uncertain character of the people attendant upon railroad construction, etc., has tended to increase the inmates in some of the state institutions, we have a population of four less than one year ago.

### THE PLACING OUT POLICY.

We have admitted a few more than any previous year, but we have returned to relatives or placed more in homes than ever before.

This was contemplated by the law establishing the Home. The law conferred authority upon the Board to have children adopted or indentured whenever it was thought for the best interest of the children. The Board has always pursued that policy. I think its wisdom has been justified by results, not only in this state, but in other states where it has been tried on a much larger scale and for a much longer time.

It seems to me the consensus of opinion among those of larger experience with the problem of dependent children that the well regulated family home offers larger freedom, wider opportunity and better conditions for the normal development of the child life than the institution home however well conducted. However, it is evident that the placing out policy must be pursued with a wise precaution. Even parents who are bound to their children by the ties of natural affection can't always manage their own children to the entire satisfaction of themselves and their neighbors. How much more delicate and difficult when these natural bonds are wanting. If a child should be placed in a home, not only devoid of natural affection, but dominated by selfishness and greed its condition would be pitiful and intolerable.

### STATE SUPERVISION.

The above considerations, together with actual experience, have led most states to adopt what is called State Supervision. This varies in different states, but the most approved plan seems to be that in which the agents are employed by the institution and are familiar with its work and methods. They not only find homes and look after children after they are placed, but also inquire into and ascertain the history and conditions of the applicants for admission. In these and more populous states, it is claimed, that some system of supervision is a necessary part of the machinery of the dependent child problem. But in those states, on account of the great number of dependent children, the need of home placing is more insistent and imperative than in Montana. It can also be more easily done and at a much less cost.

Although we have no regular system of supervision we have managed to keep in touch with most of our children. This we have done through correspondence inquiry, county superintendents of schools, the officers of the Bureau of Animal and Child Protection, etc.

Rev. J. A. Barnes, the superintendent of the Children's Home Finding Society, who has found homes for several of our children, also looks after them until assured that they are favorably located.

### THE LAW PROTECTS PARENTS.

There is one law, and so far as I know it is peculiar to Montana which has a far reaching effect upon the work of the Home. It provides that in case either parent is living, children must be kept for it, at least, one year and at the expiration of that time if the parents have not contributed to their support the Board may place them in homes, etc.

The evident design of such law was to enable parents who had become temporarily embarrassed or destitute, to improve their condition and give them an opportunity to regain possession of their children.

It is doubtless true that the institution has sometimes been imposed upon on account of this legal probation; but it has no doubt kept a greater number from squalor and neglect. Altogether I think it has proven a wise provision so far. Possibly as the state becomes more populous and dependent children more numerous it will be necessary to modify this law, or as similar Homes in other states take no children unless committed without any reservations. Of the 700 (in round numbers) children who have passed through our hands, at least three-fourths have been returned to their parents or other relatives.

#### BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

The last legislature made liberal appropriations for buildings and improvements. These improvements were much needed and the erection of these additional buildings has greatly enlarged and facilitated our work. These appropriations were for:

A kitchen, cold storage, etc.,.....	\$5,000.00
A cottage for nursery.....	\$7,500.00
Sewerage system.....	\$3,000.00
For completing cottage.....	\$1,500.00
Auditorium.....	\$8,000.00

These buildings, with the exception of the assembly hall, were constructed last year, but owing to unavoidable delay the kitchen and nursery were not completed until about the 1st of January, this year.

The kitchen includes a cold storage, bakery, pantry and storage rooms. has an excellent tile floor, cement wainscoting and is quite roomy and convenient. The nursery is the most attractive and up-to-date building of the institution. It has a dormitory room sufficient for twenty-five babies, large play room, nurses' rooms, scullery, bath room, halls, etc., on first floor. The floors are hard wood. Halls and stairway large conveniently arranged. It has steam heat and water supply. The cost of construction was greater than was anticipated and necessitated leaving the upstairs incomplete.

The Trustees, from sanitary considerations and acting also under the advice of the State Board of Health, had a new well sunk, tile floor laid in part of the dining room and some other changes. It was necessary to meet these seemingly necessary expenditures out of the maintenance fund. This, together with the sharp advance in the price of nearly everything that the institution consumes, will exhaust our appropriation before the 1st of March, 1909, the time for which appropriations were made, instead of Dec. 1st.

#### COST OF MAINTENANCE.

After a careful examination of all information attainable on this subject I am convinced that we have one of the lowest records for per capita cost of any similar institution in the United States. The last two years our per capita cost has been a little more than usual on account of some unusual expenditures and the advanced price of provision, clothing and in fact nearly everything we use. Figuring the per capita cost on the basis of the average population, it was about \$4.00 per week. This includes clothing, schooling, etc. Estimating it upon the basis of the whole number of children in the Home during the year, the cost was \$2.50 per capita per week. This last is fairer to the Home. While all the children have not actually been in the institution all the time, it has been the means of procuring them homes and care and should have the credit of it.

You gentlemen as Trustees, have always insisted upon economy. This is right when rightly understood and I have always tried to carry out your wishes in this respect. We all understand that an economy that saves with





MAIN BUILDING ORPHANS' HOME.



SOME OF THE BABIES.

no other end in view but saving is no more commendable than a profligacy that wastes without regard to results.

I am sure that this institution saves money to the State, besides, the other infinitely greater consideration, it saves the children. It has given a temporary home to hundreds. It has found permanent homes for many. It has restored many others to their parents, and kept many until they were able to make their own way in the world and helped them to obtain remunerative employment.

#### NEEDED LEGISLATION.

Personally, I hope it will never be necessary to enact much legislation for the management and direction of this institution. Especially the kind of legislation that will lead to endless "red tape." However, I think there are a few matters that should engage the attention of the legislature that is soon to convene.

One of importance is the question of the legal adoption of children from this institution. Quite a number have been adopted, but there is a question of its legality, if the matter should ever be tested. Some of the best legal talent in the state claims that as the law now stands it would be necessary for a majority of the Board of Trustees to be present in court, in person, at every adoption. It is easy to see that this would be impracticable, would involve too much expense, etc. It would make it necessary for the Board of Trustees or a majority to sometimes travel to a distant part of the state, or in every instance to go before the court in this county and the party wishing to adopt come from some distant place. This, of course, has not been done. The Board has given consent, made affidavit to it and sent to the district court. No test has ever been made of this, but some of the best lawyers are of the opinion that it does not meet the full requirement of the letter of the law, at least.

It seems to me there should be some uniform method of committing children. Sometimes they are committed by the district court and again they are admitted upon the application of the County Commissioners and County Superintendent of Schools. It seems to me there should be some uniform way of committing children to the Home. In any event the facts should be thoroughly investigated and certified to us so that a record may be kept of the children's age, nationality and other facts which may be of interest afterward



## GENERAL STATISTICS.

The following statistics exhibit in some detail the work of the Home and present fairly well its material condition:

Table No. 1.

## SHOWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE HOME, ETC.

Number of children December 1, 1907, .....	128
Received during the year .....	111
Total .....	239
Placed in homes, returned to relatives, etc., .....	115
Present number of inmates .....	124
Males .....	74
Females .....	50

Total .....

The ten who were returned to the Home during the year were included in the number received. There has been a small gain in the number of girls and a small falling off in the number of boys. The relative number varies a little but we always have more boys.

Table No. 2.

## NUMBER SENT FROM EACH COUNTY DURING YEAR.

Silver Bow .....	29
Yellowstone .....	15
Deer Lodge .....	12
Lewis and Clark .....	10
Carbon .....	6
Gallatin .....	5
Flathead .....	4
Beaverhead .....	4
Madison .....	4
Jefferson .....	3
Park .....	3
Custer .....	3
Missoula .....	2
Fergus .....	1

Table No. 3.

## SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVED FROM EACH COUNTY AND THE NUMBER GIVEN HOMES SINCE THE INSTITUTION WAS ESTABLISHED.

	REC'D FROM	GIVEN HOMES
Beaverhead .....	33	27
Broadwater .....	2	—
Cascade .....	40	31
Carbon .....	18	7
Chouteau .....	18	13
Custer .....	23	16
Dawson .....	—	2
Deer Lodge .....	36	22
Fergus .....	38	35
Flathead .....	15	7
Gallatin .....	37	28

## STATE ORPHANS' HOME.

13

Granite.....	25	7
Jefferson .....	20	13
Lewis and Clark .....	87	37
Madison .....	63	95
Meagher .....	3	3
Missoula .....	35	19
Park .....	16	24
Powell .....	11	8
Ravalli .....	6	10
Rosebud .....	4	4
Sanders .....	3	5
Silver Bow .....	298	217
Valley .....	11	4
Yellowstone .....	32	22
Boulder F. M. School .....	—	6

Sent to other states as follows:

Washington, 9; California, 1; Utah, 2; Idaho, 24; Oregon, 8; Wyoming, 10;  
 North Dakota, 5; Minnesota, 5; Colorado, 3; Missouri, 2; Michigan, 2; Iowa,  
 11; Kentucky, 3.

Table No. 4.

SHOWING SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES FOR BIENNIAL PERIOD 1907-1908.

	1907.	1908*.
Wages .....	\$9,960.50	\$9,338.25
Provisions .....	8,122.86	8,168.00
Fuel and lights .....	4,228.86	3,057.06
Drugs .....	406.20	377.95
Improvements and repairs .....	1,890.70	1,871.16
Miscellaneous expenses .....	543.20	517.32
Dry goods .....	3,560.85	2,782.41
Stationery and books .....	179.95	17.17
Shoes .....	847.97	550.06
Insurance .....	408.00	417.00
Hardware, etc., .....	950.12	948.91
Medical attendance .....	808.00	283.00
Trustees .....	387.40	324.60
Furniture .....	137.40	196.85

Totals .....\$32,403.76 \$28,877.99

\*1908 is for 11 months.

## Buildings.

Nursery building .....	\$7,500.00
Kitchen .....	5,000.00
Auditorium .....	8,000.00
Sewerage .....	2,995.40
Cottage .....	1,499.95

Total for buildings .....\$24,995.35

Table No. 5.

## INVENTORY.

108 acres of land .....	\$ 5,000.00
Buildings and improvements .....	75,000.00
Furniture, tools, etc. ....	3,000.00
9 cows .....	360.00
2 horses .....	200.00
8 pigs .....	32.00
10 tons of hay .....	70.00
4 dozen chickens.....	24.00
Dry goods and clothing,.....	1,400.00
Shoes, (345 pair),.....	500.00

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\$85,686.00

Table No. 6.

## PRODUCTS OF THE FARM, (ESTIMATED.)

Vegetables .....	\$ 50.00
4,000 gallons of milk.....	800.00
700 dozen eggs.....	175.00
10 calves.....	50.00
Hogs, (sold).....	150.00
Hay, .....	90.00
Pasturing 10 cows.....	120.00

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\$1,435.00

Table No. 7.

## EMPLOYES AND MONTHLY SALARY OF EACH.

Wiley Mountjoy, superintendent .....	\$125.00
Mrs. Wiley Mountjoy, matron,.....	50.00
Mrs. T. J. Lowman, assistant matron, .....	35.00
Mrs. L. Emmerson, nurse,.....	35.00
Miss G. Vreidenburg, night nurse,.....	30.00
Miss Grace Buckner, cottage matron,.....	30.00
Miss Anna Buckner, cottage matron,.....	30.00
Miss Gold Jackson, cottage matron,.....	30.00
Miss Bell Mickelberry, seamstress,.....	30.00
Miss Cora Gilbert, seamstress,.....	30.00
Miss Margaret Hughes, relief,.....	30.00
Mrs. Sarah Burden, house worker, etc.,.....	30.00
Mrs. Jno. Erickson, laundry,.....	40.00
Mrs. A. Desmeris, baker, etc.,.....	30.00
Mrs. H. L. Willett, cook,.....	45.00
Lena Drummond, dining rooms,.....	30.00
Mrs. M. Haviland, teacher,.....	35.00
Miss Frances Russell, teacher,.....	35.00
Miss Alice Wiles, teacher,.....	35.00
M. S. Gould, engineer,.....	70.00
R. R. Tovey, assistant engineer,.....	50.00
Jacob Sayger, teamster, etc.,.....	40.00

During the months of July, August and September we do not employ any teachers and only one engineer.

## NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

Our present needs lie, not so much in the direction of enlargement, as in completing and perfecting improvements already begun.

Two years ago, as already stated, appropriations were made for building and furnishing a Nursery and for the erection of other buildings. The appropriation for the Nursery was not sufficient to complete it. The first floor was finished, including heating, plumbing, etc. We need to finish the second floor and also two partitions in the attic of the main building. This would give us a good sewing room, several additional rooms for employes and another dormitory for children.

We have never had the means to build any sidewalks, except a narrow plank walk in front of the cottages. This, now nearly worn out, has been of so much utility and pleasure that it greatly emphasizes the need of permanent walks. Cement walks in front of Main Building and Cottages and from the Main Building to the School House, would not only add very much to the appearance of the premises, but would aid very much in keeping the buildings clean and in preserving them. We have a heavy alkali soil and this means much mud during the rainy season.

We need a good attractive fence on each side of the public road that passes through our grounds and in front of all the buildings, a distance of about five hundred feet. We have a very common pasture fence.

We ought to have a good cow barn large enough for at least twenty-five cows. Our boys do the milking. We now milk ten cows. In order to have sufficient milk for all the children we should have twenty-five. To get the best results we should have good shelter not only for the protection of the cows and the boys in cold weather, but to insure the cleanliness of the milk at all times.

We are short on furniture and equipment in all the buildings. No furniture has been purchased in the last twelve years, except the little bought out of the maintenance fund. The appropriations made for "Building and Furnishing," (and they were always made in this way), were invariably exhausted in building and in order to use buildings, at all, meager equipment and furniture were procured out of maintenance appropriation, or from other buildings already short.

The school house and auditorium are too far from our heating plant to be heated from it. It is necessary to heat them with stoves. There is room under the stage for a boiler, etc., sufficient of capacity to heat them. Either steam or hot water could be utilized.

Several soft wood floors in the Main Building and play rooms of the cottages are worn out and it will be necessary to replace them. Part of these are in basement of main building. We now have tile floor in part of basement (kitchen and one dining room). The other rooms of the basement should be the same, and the other worn-out floors should be of hard wood. All this is in the interest of permanency, economy and health.

I would recommend that you ask the legislature for appropriations for these various needs as follows:

Completing the nursery and partitioning the attic, etc.,.....	\$2,000.00
Sidewalks and fences.....	3,000.00
Cow barn.....	2,500.00
Heating school house and assembly room.....	4,000.00
Furniture and equipment for all the Home.....	2,000.00
Tile and hard wood floors.....	1,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$15,000.00



**ESTIMATED COST OF MAINTENANCE FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD  
1909-'10.**

	1909.	1910.
Wages,.....	\$10,000.00	\$10,500.00
Provisions, .....	8,500.00	8,500.00
Dry goods.....	3,500.00	4,000.00
Fuel and lights,.....	3,500.00	3,500.00
Improvements and repairs,.....	1,500.00	1,500.00
Hardware and dishes,.....	1,000.00	1,000.00
Shoes,.....	600.00	600.00
Miscellaneous expenses,.....	600.00	600.00
Drugs and medicines,.....	500.00	500.00
Medical attendance,.....	500.00	500.00
Trustee account,.....	500.00	500.00
Insurance, .....	500.00	500.00
	<hr/> \$31,000.00	<hr/> \$32,000.00

The above estimates are based upon the cost of maintenance at prices prevailing the past two years and upon the assumption that our population will remain practically the same. If there should be a marked decline in prices of what we consume, or a large falling off in number of inmates, which is not likely, it is more than we will need. On the other hand, if there should be a very large increase in the population of the institution or a very considerable advance in price of produce, the estimate might prove too small.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge contributions from the Order of Eagles of Montana, the Order of Pecos of Butte, and from the D. J. Hennessey Mercantile Co., of Butte, for numerous and appropriate presents for the children last Christmas. Also boxes of numerous things from the boys and girls of the Central School of Helena. These remembrances and gifts contributed no little to the happiness and pleasure of our children during the holidays.

I wish to thank all, they are too numerous to mention by name, who by their presence or letter, or kindly word or gift, have shown a friendly interest in the work and progress of this institution.

Respectfully Submitted,  
WILEY MOUNTJOY,  
Superintendent.

Approved December 5, 1908:

MARCUS ELSER,  
W. M. OLIVER,  
A. J. WILCOMB,  
AMOS EASTMAN,  
Board of Trustees.





